

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4196

To establish a National Foreign Language Coordination Council.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 2, 2005

Mr. BAIRD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To establish a National Foreign Language Coordination Council.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL FOREIGN LAN-**
4 **GUAGE COORDINATION COUNCIL.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Na-
6 tional Foreign Language Coordination Council (in this
7 section referred to as the “Council”), which shall be an
8 independent establishment as defined under section 104
9 of title 5, United States Code.

10 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall consist of the
11 following members or their designees:

1 (1) The National Language Director, who shall
2 serve as the chairperson of the Council.

3 (2) The Secretary of Education.

4 (3) The Secretary of Defense.

5 (4) The Secretary of State.

6 (5) The Secretary of Homeland Security.

7 (6) The Attorney General.

8 (7) The Director of National Intelligence.

9 (8) The Secretary of Labor.

10 (9) The Director of the Office of Personnel
11 Management.

12 (10) The Director of the Office of Management
13 and Budget.

14 (11) The Secretary of Commerce.

15 (12) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
16 ices.

17 (13) The Secretary of the Treasury.

18 (14) The Secretary of Housing and Urban De-
19 velopment.

20 (15) The Secretary of Agriculture.

21 (16) The Chairman and President of the Ex-
22 port-Import Bank of the United States.

23 (17) The heads of such other Federal agencies
24 as the Council considers appropriate.

25 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be
2 charged with—

3 (A) developing a national foreign language
4 strategy, within 18 months of the date of enact-
5 ment of this section, in consultation with—

6 (i) State and local government agen-
7 cies;

8 (ii) academic sector institutions;

9 (iii) foreign language related interest
10 groups;

11 (iv) business associations;

12 (v) industry;

13 (vi) heritage associations; and

14 (vii) other relevant stakeholders;

15 (B) conducting a survey of the status of
16 Federal agency foreign language and area ex-
17 pertise and agency needs for such expertise;
18 and

19 (C) monitoring the implementation of such
20 strategy through—

21 (i) application of current and recently
22 enacted laws; and

23 (ii) the promulgation and enforcement
24 of rules and regulations.

1 (2) STRATEGY CONTENT.—The strategy devel-
2 oped under paragraph (1) shall include—

3 (A) identification of crucial priorities
4 across all sectors;

5 (B) identification and evaluation of Fed-
6 eral foreign language programs and activities,
7 including—

8 (i) any duplicative or overlapping pro-
9 grams that may impede efficiency;

10 (ii) recommendations on coordination;

11 (iii) program enhancements; and

12 (iv) allocation of resources so as to
13 maximize use of resources;

14 (C) needed national policies and cor-
15 responding legislative and regulatory actions in
16 support of, and allocation of designated re-
17 sources to, promising programs and initiatives
18 at all levels (Federal, State, and local), espe-
19 cially in the less commonly taught languages
20 that are seen as critical for national security
21 and global competitiveness during the next 20
22 to 50 years;

23 (D) effective ways to increase public
24 awareness of the need for foreign language
25 skills and career paths in all sectors that can

1 employ those skills, with the objective of in-
2 creasing support for foreign language study
3 among—

4 (i) Federal, State, and local leaders;

5 (ii) students;

6 (iii) parents;

7 (iv) elementary, secondary, and post-
8 secondary educational institutions; and

9 (v) employers;

10 (E) recommendations for incentives for re-
11 lated educational programs, including foreign
12 language teacher training;

13 (F) coordination of cross-sector efforts, in-
14 cluding public-private partnerships;

15 (G) coordination initiatives to develop a
16 strategic posture for language research and rec-
17 ommendations for funding for applied foreign
18 language research into issues of national con-
19 cern;

20 (H) recommendations for assistance for—

21 (i) the development of foreign lan-
22 guage achievement standards; and

23 (ii) corresponding assessments for the
24 elementary, secondary, and postsecondary
25 education levels, including the National As-

1 assessment of Educational Progress in for-
2 eign languages;

3 (I) recommendations for development of—

4 (i) language skill-level certification
5 standards;

6 (ii) frameworks for pre-service and
7 professional development study for those
8 who teach foreign language; and

9 (iii) suggested graduation criteria for
10 foreign language studies and appropriate
11 non-language studies, such as—

12 (I) international business;

13 (II) national security;

14 (III) public administration;

15 (IV) health care;

16 (V) engineering;

17 (VI) law;

18 (VII) journalism; and

19 (VIII) sciences;

20 (J) identification of and means for repli-
21 cating best practices at all levels and in all sec-
22 tors, including best practices from the inter-
23 national community; and

24 (K) recommendations for overcoming bar-
25 riers in foreign language proficiency.

1 (d) SUBMISSION OF STRATEGY TO PRESIDENT AND
2 CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of
3 enactment of this section, the Council shall prepare and
4 transmit to the President and the relevant committees of
5 Congress the strategy required under subsection (c).

6 (e) MEETINGS.—The Council may hold such meet-
7 ings, and sit and act at such times and places, as the
8 Council considers appropriate, but shall meet in formal
9 session at least 2 times a year. State and local government
10 agencies and other organizations (such as academic sector
11 institutions, foreign language-related interest groups,
12 business associations, industry, and heritage community
13 organizations) shall be invited, as appropriate, to public
14 meetings of the Council at least once a year.

15 (f) STAFF.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may—

17 (A) appoint, without regard to the provi-
18 sions of title 5, United States Code, governing
19 the competitive service, such personnel as the
20 Director considers necessary; and

21 (B) compensate such personnel without re-
22 gard to the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-
23 chapter III of chapter 53 of that title.

24 (2) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

25 Upon request of the Council, any Federal Govern-

1 ment employee may be detailed to the Council with-
2 out reimbursement, and such detail shall be without
3 interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege

4 (3) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the
5 approval of the Council, the Director may procure
6 temporary and intermittent services under section
7 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

8 (4) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Council members and
9 staff shall be allowed travel expenses, including per
10 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for
11 employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter
12 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from
13 their homes or regular places of business in the per-
14 formance of services for the Council.

15 (5) SECURITY CLEARANCE.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
17 graph (B), the appropriate Federal agencies or
18 departments shall cooperate with the Council in
19 expeditiously providing to the Council members
20 and staff appropriate security clearances to the
21 extent possible pursuant to existing procedures
22 and requirements.

23 (B) EXCEPTION.—No person shall be pro-
24 vided with access to classified information

1 under this section without the appropriate re-
2 quired security clearance access.

3 (6) COMPENSATION.—The rate of pay for any
4 employee of the Council (including the Director)
5 may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the
6 Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5,
7 United States Code.

8 (g) POWERS.—

9 (1) DELEGATION.—Any member or employee of
10 the Council may, if authorized by the Council, take
11 any action that the Council is authorized to take in
12 this section.

13 (2) INFORMATION.—

14 (A) COUNCIL AUTHORITY TO SECURE.—

15 The Council may secure directly from any Fed-
16 eral agency such information, consistent with
17 Federal privacy laws, including The Family
18 Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C.
19 1232g) and Department of Education’s General
20 Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232(h)),
21 the Council considers necessary to carry out its
22 responsibilities.

23 (B) REQUIREMENT TO FURNISH RE-
24 QUESTED INFORMATION.—Upon request of the

1 Director, the head of such agency shall furnish
2 such information to the Council.

3 (3) DONATIONS.—The Council may accept, use,
4 and dispose of gifts or donations of services or prop-
5 erty.

6 (4) MAIL.—The Council may use the United
7 States mail in the same manner and under the same
8 conditions as other Federal agencies.

9 (h) CONFERENCES, NEWSLETTER, AND WEBSITE.—
10 In carrying out this section, the Council—

11 (1) may arrange Federal, regional, State, and
12 local conferences for the purpose of developing and
13 coordinating effective programs and activities to im-
14 prove foreign language education;

15 (2) may publish a newsletter concerning Fed-
16 eral, State, and local programs that are effectively
17 meeting the foreign language needs of the Nation;
18 and

19 (3) shall create and maintain a website con-
20 taining information on the Council and its activities,
21 best practices on language education, and other rel-
22 evant information.

23 (i) REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date
24 of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the
25 Council shall prepare and transmit to the President and

1 the relevant committees of Congress a report that de-
2 scribes—

3 (1) the activities of the Council;

4 (2) the efforts of the Council to improve foreign
5 language education and training; and

6 (3) impediments to the use of a National For-
7 eign Language program, including any statutory and
8 regulatory restrictions.

9 (j) ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL LANGUAGE DI-
10 RECTOR.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a Na-
12 tional Language Director who shall be appointed by
13 the President. The National Language Director shall
14 be a nationally recognized individual with credentials
15 and abilities across the sectors to be involved with
16 creating and implementing long-term solutions to
17 achieving national foreign language and cultural
18 competency.

19 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The National Lan-
20 guage Director shall—

21 (A) develop and monitor the implementa-
22 tion of a national foreign language strategy
23 across all sectors;

24 (B) establish formal relationships among
25 the major stakeholders in meeting the needs of

1 the Nation for improved capabilities in foreign
2 languages and cultural understanding, including
3 Federal, State, and local government agencies,
4 academia, industry, labor, and heritage commu-
5 nities; and

6 (C) coordinate and lead a public informa-
7 tion campaign that raises awareness of public
8 and private sector careers requiring foreign lan-
9 guage skills and cultural understanding, with
10 the objective of increasing interest in and sup-
11 port for the study of foreign languages among
12 national leaders, the business community, local
13 officials, parents, and individuals.

14 (k) ENCOURAGEMENT OF STATE INVOLVEMENT.—

15 (1) STATE CONTACT PERSONS.—The Council
16 shall consult with each State to provide for the des-
17 ignation by each State of an individual to serve as
18 a State contact person for the purpose of receiving
19 and disseminating information and communications
20 received from the Council.

21 (2) STATE INTERAGENCY COUNCILS AND LEAD
22 AGENCIES.—Each State is encouraged to establish a
23 State interagency council on foreign language co-
24 ordination or designate a lead agency for the State
25 for the purpose of assuming primary responsibility

1 for coordinating and interacting with the Council
2 and State and local government agencies as nec-
3 essary.

4 (l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
5 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as necessary
6 to carry out this section.

○